



## Northamptonshire County Council

Please ask for:

Tel: 01604 366058

Our ref:

Your ref:

Date:

4 March 2014

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Important Changes To The Meningitis C Vaccination Programme For 13 to 14 year olds (Year 10)**

Following the current advice and recommendations by the Department of Health's Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisations, we would like to inform you about an important change to the immunisation programme which will affect 13-14 year olds from 2014.

Research and careful monitoring of the national vaccination programme shows that the direct protection that young children get from Meningitis C vaccination is relatively short lived. This means that babies who were vaccinated in 1999/2000 will now be teenagers who are no longer directly protected from this serious illness, and have therefore again become vulnerable to infection by Meningitis C.

Meningococcal disease can affect all age groups, but the rates of disease are highest in children under five years of age, with the peak incidence in those under one year of age. There is a second peak in incidence in young people aged 15 to 19 years of age.

Although cases of Meningitis C are at a historically low level, it is important to vaccinate this age group to protect all teenagers and maintain protection amongst the population at large.

Northamptonshire's Healthcare Foundation Trust's (NHFT) Children and Young People's (formerly School Nursing) service will be offering 13-14 year olds the Meningitis C "booster" vaccination starting from this year onwards. . The changes to the schedule will make the overall Meningitis C immunisation programme more effective and offer greater protection to teenagers.

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Northamptonshire  
County Council

We hope you find the accompanying information regarding the immunisation schedule for secondary schools useful.

***Could you also please ensure that Parents/Carers take time to complete and return the consent form that will be provided by your School Nurse to indicate their consent or non-consent, as required please?. Thank you.***

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the CYP/school nursing team on the telephone number above the consent form, if you have any concerns or questions about Meningitis C vaccination. Further information can also be found at [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations), and in the attached NHS information leaflet.

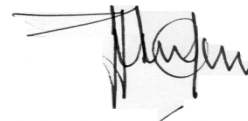
Yours sincerely



**Dr Akeem Ali**  
**Director of Public Health**



**Alex Hopkins**  
**Director of Children,  
Families and Education**



**Dr Alex O'Neill-Kerr**  
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Enc

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